

Casualties of
War in Iraq
3,187
as of Mar 8,
2007

El Editor

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

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Week of March 8 - 14, 2007

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Lubbock, Texas 79401

Viernes y Sabado, Llega Festival Viva Aztlan

Al Centro Civico
de Lubbock



El Festival Viva Aztlan empieza el viernes y continua hasta el sabado. Boletos para cada funcion se pueden comprar en la puerta por un costo de \$4 y \$5. Para mas informacion llame al 252-2828. Habra participacion de grupos folorico de varios estados de los Estados Unidos ademas de México. Todo publico es invitado.

Friday's Schedule - March 9, 2007

Registration 9:00 a.m. Civic Center Theatre Lobby
Mariachi Workshop 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Civic Center Rooms 108-111
Children's Workshop 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Civic Center Theatre
Region: Sinaloa Instructor: Jose Munoz
Lunch (On your own) 12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Mariachi Workshop 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Civic Center Rooms 108-111
Children's Dance Workshops
1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Region: Yucatan Instructor: Martha Zubia
Children's Competition
3:30 to 3:50 p.m. Star Dance Academy - Hobbs, NM
3:55 to 4:15 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Aztlan - Lubbock, TX
4:20 to 4:40 p.m. Grupo de Danza Folklorica Raramuri - Anthony, NM
4:45 to 5:05 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Nuestra Herencia - Lubbock, TX
5:05 to 5:25 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Back of the Yards - Chicago, IL
5:30 to 5:50 p.m. Corazon Mexicano - Carlsbad, NM
Dinner (On your own) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Mariachi Concert 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Mariachi Groups: MARIACHI NUEVA GENERACION,
MARIACHI AMISTAD, INSTRUCTORS FROM LOS ARRIEROS

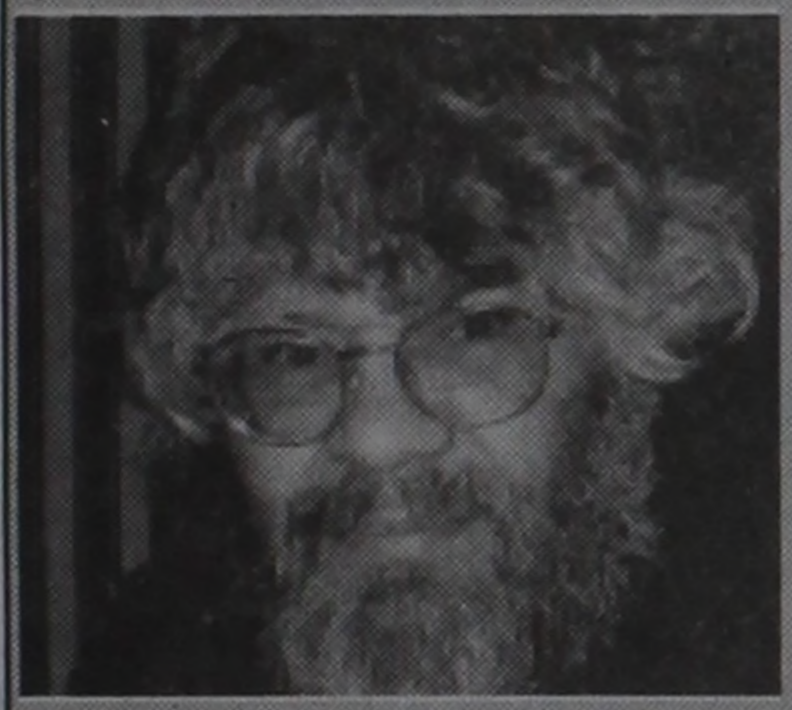
Saturday's Schedule - March 10, 2007

Adult's Workshop 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Center Theatre
Region: Jalisco Instructor: Rodolfo Hernandez
Mariachi Workshop 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Civic Center Rooms 108 - 111
Director's Seminar 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Room - 112
Presented by Rodolfo Hernandez - Jose Munoz - Martha Zubia
Adult's Workshop 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.
Region: Nuevo Leon Instructor: Isidro Salas (Norte)
Lunch (On your own) 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
Mariachi Workshop 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Civic Center Rooms 108 - 111

Adult's Competition - Saturday March 10th
1:30 - 1:55 p.m. Muleshoe Ballet Folklorico - Muleshoe, TX
2:00 - 2:25 p.m. Grupo Folklorico Jaguar - Edinburg, TX
2:30 - 2:55 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Semblanzas - Albuquerque, NM
3:00 - 3:25 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Aztlan - Lubbock, TX
3:30 - 3:55 p.m. Alma Folklorica de Oklahoma - Guymon, OK
4:00 - 4:25 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Nuestra Herencia - Lubbock, TX
4:30 - 4:55 p.m. Grupo de Danza Folklorica Raramuri - Anthony, NM
5:00 - 5:25 p.m. Ahue Tosacame-Colegio de Bachilleres #6, Cd Juarez, Mexico

5:30 - 5:55 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Back of the Yards, Chicago, IL
Dinner 6:00 - 7:30 Location: Ice House - 511 Ave J.
Showcase 7:30 - 9 p.m. Civic Center Theatre
Roy Lozano's Ballet Folklorico de Texas - Austin, TX
Awards Ceremony 9:15 - 10:00 p.m. - Theatre

Comentarios de Bidal Agüero



Those that miss this weekend's Viva Aztlan Festival are going to lose an opportunity of a lifetime to see and enjoy folkloric groups from Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Chicago and even México that will participate in this year's competition. To say that they are in competition only serves to tell the public that they will perform their best in their repertoire including tradition costumes and dances from every State of Mexico and also every era of their history. It is beautiful to see the fabulous plumes and costumes of the Aztec and Mayan empires in dances performed by dancers that put their heart and soul into their work. For \$3 per day, the public can't afford to miss out these stars.

This coming week we again poll our readers to tell us their opinions on an important issue that affect our community. We normally do this through emails but because of the importance of the issue this week we are printing the question in this column for the entire public to answer. We invite you send in your opinions.

Hispanic Pulse Question:
In the past few weeks we have seen our City fathers and leaders in our area travel to Austin and Washington D.C. to tell our legislators about what they say is our most dire needs. According to them those include energy, transportation and water. Texas is currently has the worst teen age pregnancy rate in the nation. Texas currently has the 4th highest dropout rate. Twenty two percent of Lubbock residents live in poverty. Lubbock currently has the worst STD rate in the State. Children continue losing their health benefits with CHIP under current Texas law. Do you think our City leaders should re-examine their priorities?
Send opinions to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Bush Child-Health Limit Divisive

By OLGA PIERCE

Most U.S. House members agree that the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) should be reauthorized later this year, but dissension on the issue surfaced at a subcommittee hearing this week, with the battle lines drawn along controversial changes to the program included in President Bush's health budget.

"People on both sides of the aisle obviously want to reauthorize," said Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, ranking member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, at a health subcommittee hearing. "But there will be some differences of opinion."

Advocates of the program, known as SCHIP, say that the joint federal-state program, which offers health coverage to 5 million low- and moderate-income children, has proven its worth and should be expanded.

States, they say, should follow the lead of New Jersey and others by offering the coverage to children up to 300 percent of the federal poverty line and even some parents. More than 60 child health organizations have signed on to a letter to Congress calling for \$60 billion in additional funding for the program over the next five years to sustain current enrollment and fund proposed expansions.

Bush's proposed 2008 budget, however, would only expand funding by \$4.2 billion over the same period. It also seeks to limit the program to

children only - meaning no parents or pregnant women - under 200 percent of the federal poverty line, by sharply curtailing federal matching funds.

That means that states will have to use their own funds to cover adults and children in families with incomes over roughly \$40,000.

Insufficiently funding SCHIP will keep it from doing its job - covering uninsured children, said subcommittee chairman Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J.

"The most immediate and glaring problem is lack of funding for the program," he said. "Simply stated, more money is needed in order to ensure the viability of SCHIP."

"(Bush's) plan shortchanges America's children." When the program was launched ten years ago, it provided for steadily increasing fixed levels of funding which have been divided among the states in the form of block grants. Total federal funding in 2007 is about \$5 billion. In previous years, states have managed to keep their programs afloat by covering shortfalls with unused funds from previous years.

However, most of those funds have been exhausted and 18 states already face the prospect of turning eligible children away.

Under Bush's proposed funding level, the situation would get worse, said Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich.

"The fact is, we know how to provide healthcare for children in a cost-effective way," he said, and the president's plan is a "roadmap leading us regrettably in the wrong direction."

Limiting states' ability to extend eligibility will also hurt the program in the long run, Democrats said at the hearing.

"The evidence is clear - covering parents helps increase the coverage for children," Dingell said, because eligible parents are more likely to enroll their children in SCHIP.

Keeping parents out "draws a line down the middle of a family," said Jan Schakowsky, D-III.

Bush's proposal to offer coverage only to families below 200 percent of the federal poverty line also drew fire from Democrats on the committee.

The 200 percent boundary is "an arbitrary line," Schakowsky said, that will deny coverage to children in families a dollar above it, but offer it to families with a few dollars less.

Two of the witnesses also testified that they felt "punished" when their incomes went up moderately and they lost eligibility for the program.

But Republicans defended Bush's proposals as reasonable and fiscally prudent.

State flexibility "should have some limits," said Rep. Nathan Deal, R-Ga. "In some states, the program has lost its focus: that is to cover children."

Instead of just expanding SCHIP, he said, long-term solutions should be found to make private insurance more affordable, like reducing insurance benefits mandated by states.

"We are not giving anyone a blank check to spend taxpayer dollars," agreed Rep. Michael Burgess, R-Texas. "Any dollar spent on an adult is a dollar not spent on a child."

Expanding public programs, he said, could "crowd out" private insurance and actually increase the number of people without private-sector insurance.

The priority, he said, should be "looking for ways to use existing resources more wisely."

Immigrant Crime and the Fear-Feeding Frenzy

By José de la Isla
Tell me straight. Do you think crime by immigrants is getting out of control?

Do Has local media been carrying those stories? Do you think it's worse now than before? Do you think the police need more legal tools to get control? If so, there's something you should know.

Another lengthy academic study has just come out maintaining that immigrants are far less inclined to be bad guys than our

native sons. It's the natives who grow up to become criminals.

The researchers, Dr. Ruben Rumbaut of University of California at Irvine and Dr. Walter A. Ewing, of the Immigration Policy Center, which published the study, found that between 1994 and 2000 criminal incarceration rates among immigrants were amazingly low. In that period, as the U.S. undocumented population doubled to 12 million, violent crime declined 34.2 percent and property crime dropped 26.4 percent. Crime was low in all major cat-

egories when comparing immigrants and the native population. Among men 18 to 39 years, who mainly comprise this country's prison inhabitants. Immigrants from Mexico were eight times less likely to be incarcerated than their U.S. counterparts. Foreign-born Salvadorans and Guatemalans had a rate six times lower than their counterpart cousins. In a startling observation, IPC director Benjamin Johnson admitted the report implied, "At some point in the political process, the facts don't matter... (Immigra-

tion policy issues) become about sound bites and not about data." That is probably why the public will discount IPC's "The Myth of Immigrant Criminality and the Paradox of Assimilation," the study released Feb. 26. For more than a century, reports like this one have been saying the same thing. The Industrial Commission of 1901, the (Dillingham) Immigration Commission of 1911, and the National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement of 1931 all found lower levels of criminal

involvement among the foreign-born. The historical record is consistent. What does this report tell us that we didn't already know? Nothing. The more intriguing issue is, why isn't a large noisy part of the public willing to believe it? The report's authors dispassionately reason that because many immigrants enter the country by overstaying visas and through unauthorized channels, their status "is framed as an assault against the 'rule of law.'" (continued page 2)

Criminalidad inmigrante y frenesí propagado por el meido

LETTERS TO THE Editor

send mail to eleditor@sbcglobal.net

José de la Isla
Las cosas claras -- ¿le parece que va descontrolándose el crimen propagado por inmigrantes? ¿Ha visto reportajes en los medios locales? ¿Le parece que la situación ahora es peor que antes? ¿Le parece que la policía necesita mayor autoridad legal para controlarlo?

Si le parece que sí, hay algo que debe saber. Ha salido últimamente otro estudio académico amplio que sostiene que los inmigrantes son mucho menos propensos a ser los villanos que nuestros hijos nativos. Son los nativos quienes creen y se hacen criminales.

Los investigadores, el doctor Ruben Rumbaut de la Universidad de California en Irvine, y el doctor Walter A. Ewing, del Immigration Policy Center, el que publicó el estudio, encontraron que entre 1994 y el 2000, los índices de encarcelación de inmigrantes eran asombrosamente bajos. En aquel periodo, en lo que la población indocumentada en los Estados Unidos se dobló, llegando a 12 millones, la incidencia de crímenes violentos bajó en un 34.2 por ciento, mientras que el

crimen contra la propiedad declinó en un 26.4 por ciento.

El índice de criminalidad en todas las categorías era bajo, al comparar a los inmigrantes con la población nativa de hombres de 18 a 39 años, los que mayormente comprenden los encarcelados de este país. Los inmigrantes de México eran menos propensos a ser encarcelados por ocho veces que sus contrapartes estadounidenses. Los salvadoreños y guatemaltecos nacidos en el extranjero eran seis veces menos propensos que sus contrapartes primos.

En una observación alarmante, Benjamin Johnson, director del Immigration Policy Center, admitió que el estudio implica que "En algún punto del proceso político, los hechos verídicos pierden valor... (los temas de política migratoria) se convierten en estribillo para la televisión, sin fundamento en los datos".

Por esta razón es probable que el público rechace el estudio, que salió el 26 de febrero, titulado "The Myth of Immigrant Criminality and the Paradox of Assimilation" ("El mito de la criminalidad de inmigrantes y la paradoja de la asimilación").

Durante más de un siglo, estudios como éste han reportado lo mismo.

La Industrial Commission de 1901, la (Dillingham) Immigration Commission de 1911, y la National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement de 1931 han reportado todas haber encontrado índices menores de participación de inmigrantes en actos criminales. El historial es consistente.

¿Qué nos dice este estudio que no sabíamos ya? Nada. Lo más intrigante es el por qué no quiere creerlo una porción grande y bulliciosa del público.

Los autores razonan imparcialmente que ya que muchos inmigrantes entran al país dejando caducar sus visas y por medios sin autorización, su estatus "se enmarca cual asalto contra el 'dominio de la ley'".

Rumbaut explica que el espúreo mito popular de la criminalidad migrante se nutre de anécdotas en los medios de comunicación. Las notas sensacionalistas incitan una percepción pública errónea.

Robert Sampson, investigador de Harvard, quien participó en la presentación del estudio, dice que las actitudes erróneas del público sobre los inmigrantes y los índices más altos de criminalidad son un tema de "carne viva" que utilizan los políticos. "Es muy popular ser mano dura contra la criminalidad". En realidad, aunque los

índices de criminalidad en los EE.UU. van en declive, este país tiene uno de los índices de encarcelación más altos del mundo. "Hay una inmensa desconexión", indicó.

Le pregunté a Sampson si lo reportado no es, en realidad, un reflejo de la manera en que la sociedad estadounidense asimila información. Respondió, "Yo creo que eso es parte de nuestro mensaje. La información ha estado a la disposición del público hace tiempo ya, pero la continúan interpretando de una manera en particular".

Comenta Rumbaut que hay "algo casi en el ADN de la sociedad estadounidense, el miedo éste que los desconocidos que llegan de lugares extraños socavan el fundamento del bienestar de los nativos".

Me remonto al humor cáustico de Mark Twain: "Lo que hay son mentiras, malditas mentiras, y estadísticas". Pero, si las estadísticas han revelado siempre la verdad, la opinión pública que cree lo contrario debe estar en la categoría de "mentiras y malditas mentiras".

[José de la Isla, autor de "The Rise of Hispanic Political Power" (Archer Books, 2003), redacta un comentario semanal para Hispanic Link News Service. Comuníquese con él a: joseisla3@yahoo.com.]

Editor

Overall, I believe LPD is trying to do a good job to help our communities to be a safe place for raising our children. I don't think we need to bash our own, but I also feel, however, that City management and LPD is not helping matters any by targeting petty issues rather than leading the way in helping the citizen's feel more secure. With the latest rash of murders, blatant break-ins while people are still home and assaults, I would think we need to concentrate on the important issues. The Chippendale thing was so frivolous and came across as so petty that it enraged the public. I know LPD works hard, but I also know not all cops are good cops. LPD, take notice, because we do!

Diana Z Guzman

Editor,
For the 18th consecutive year, Lubbock Meals on Wheels is benefiting from "Annie's Chat and Chew". This fundraiser was started by long time volunteer Annie Sanders and is being continued in her memory this year at the Mae Simmons Senior Center, 2004 Oak Avenue, on Sat. March 17, 2007 from 11:00a.m. -1:00p.m.

Guests can enjoy some great food while visiting with old friends and remembering a very special woman, Annie Sanders. Donations will be accepted at the door to help fund the purchase of meals for the homebound community served by Lubbock Meals on Wheels. Help us keep Annie's giving spirit alive by joining us at Annie's Chat and Chew. For more info, please call 792-7971.

NCLR URGES CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE "DREAM ACT" AND OPEN THE DOOR TO COLLEGE FOR THOUSANDS OF AMERICA'S STUDENTS

Washington, DC — The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) joined the United We DREAM Coalition in urging Congress to approve the Senate's "DREAM Act" which was introduced today by Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL), Chuck Hagel (R-NE), and Richard Lugar (R-IN) joining the House companion bill, the "American Dream Act," introduced last week by Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), and Lincoln Diaz-Balart (D-FL). This bipartisan legislation will allow immigrant students who were raised in the U.S. and graduate from U.S. high schools to go to college and start on the path to citizenship.

"Since the 'DREAM Act' was first introduced in 2001, more than 390,000 of our nation's best and brightest students have graduated from high school with no prospect of going to college. We cannot continue to waste this talent. Now is the time for Congress to pass the 'DREAM Act' and put the tremendous potential that these students have to work for our communities and our country," said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO.

Every year, American high schools grant diplomas to 65,000 young people whose parents brought them to the U.S. as babies or toddlers. While these students have the academic credentials to pursue a higher education, their immigration status bars them from opportunities that make a college education affordable — in-state tuition rates, loans and grants, most private scholarships, and the ability to work legally to earn their way through college. The "DREAM Act" and the "American Dream Act" will significantly increase access to college for young people who otherwise would not be able to seek higher education.

"These students are American in every way except one. They simply lack the opportunity that many Americans have — the chance to become educated and get ahead in life. The 'DREAM Act' will allow these young people to become the productive, taxpaying citizens this country needs," said Murguía.

The United We DREAM Coalition is a broad alliance of national and local organizations throughout the U.S. which includes civil rights, education, immigrant rights, and faith-based groups.

acreditan prestigiosos cuerpos educativos que no son del Colegio de Abogados (así como nuestra escuela de derecho).

Es claro que algunos — hasta muchos — de aquellos graduados son hispanos. Algunos serán estudiantes de clase obrera quienes no podían costearse la matrícula de Harvard, Yale o la Universidad del Sur de California. El negarles el derecho de dar el examen del colegio estatal de abogados es otra forma de castigar a las escuelas que quieren ofrecer educación legal de calidad y alcanzable económicamente a las personas de clase obrera.

Si se va a representar equitativamente a los hispanos en la profesión legal y en los buenos empleos altamente remunerados a los que tendrá un título de abogado, la comunidad hispana tendrá que presionar para que el Colegio de Abogados Nacional suelte su control del proceso de acreditación de escuelas de derecho, dejando que otros grupos que no sean ellos acrediten también las escuelas de derecho, en particular las escuelas al alcance de personas de bajos recursos.

Quizá se pueda convencer a los Tribunales Supremos estatales a efectuar este cambio del sistema. Pero, por lo que se han resistido a hacerlo en el pasado, es más probable que los hispanos y otros tendrán que persuadir a que las legislaturas estatales lo hagan. Las legislaturas estatales tienen la autoridad, y deben ejercerla.

(Lawrence Velvel es decano y co-fundador de la Escuela de Derecho de Massachusetts en Andover, y se le reconoce como líder del movimiento en pro de aumentar la diversidad racial y mejorar la calidad de educación en las escuelas de derecho de la nación.

Why are there so few Hispanic lawyers?

By Lawrence Velvel
Only an estimated 3.9 percent of this nation's lawyers are Hispanic. It's a group that represents 13 percent of the nation's population, more than 40 million people. Yet, even as this number is rising rapidly, Hispanic enrollment in our nation's law schools is falling off.

There are a number of reasons for this. Some, such as poverty and consequently low graduation rates from high schools and colleges, have little to do with the law schools themselves. But the law schools, and the American Bar Association, are playing a major role in keeping Hispanics out of the legal profession.

Hispanics are being screened out by the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). This test is insisted upon by the ABA, which accredits nearly all law schools today. Yet it has been well established that the LSAT not only discriminates against Hispanics and blacks, but favors applicants from wealthier backgrounds, who score higher than middle- or low-income applicants from any group.

According to Elizabeth Chambliss, a professor at the New York Law School, "The legal profession already is one of the least racially integrated professions in the United States when all four minority groups (African-American, Hispanic, Asian American, Native American) are aggregated."

She blamed "the heavy reliance" of law schools on the LSAT, explaining, "African Americans and other minority groups score lower, on average, than whites, yet law schools' reliance on this measure of aptitude has increased markedly over time."

But even if a Hispanic overcomes the LSAT barrier, he or she runs into tuition barriers. Since 1990 law school tuition has skyrocketed 267 percent. Yale charges tuition of \$38,800 a year;

the University of Southern California in downtown Los Angeles charges \$37,971; Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, charges \$31,238, and Texas Southern University, in Houston, charges \$20,850.

The result is every one of those schools has a Hispanic enrollment of about six percent or fewer, even though most are in large Hispanic centers. USC, located in a huge Latino population center, has only 39 Mexican-American students and 15 other Hispanics enrolled among its 628 full-time students.

At the private University of Miami Law School in Coral Gables, where the annual law school tuition is \$31,094, only 11.8 percent of the student body is Hispanic. At nearby, state-supported Florida International University, where tuition is \$8,543, Hispanic enrollment is 40.7 percent.

Law school costs and tuitions are being pushed up in good part by the ABA accreditors. "Demanding extravagant wages, working conditions and lifestyles for law professors, and demanding plush facilities and libraries, the ABA standards required enormous financial resources," author Debbie Hagan wrote in her book "Against The Tide," published by University Press of America.

ABA standards regulate everything from how many hours law school professors may teach (not many) to the number of expensive full-time professors, sabbaticals, elaborateness of buildings, entrance examinations and even the number of (very expensive) books in the library, Hagan notes.

It is common for law school professors today to earn between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year for light teaching loads, while the students whose tuition pays their salaries graduate with debts of \$100,000 or more that take years to pay off.

The Hispanic-excluding ABA rules are nice for law professors, who lead plush lives, but are bad for education.

As Saul Levmore and David Van Zandt of the American Law Deans Association (ALDA) wrote last year: "The ABA continues to impose requirements on the law schools it accredits that are not only extraneous to the process of assuring the quality of legal education, but also that improperly intrude on institutional autonomy in seeking to dictate terms and conditions of employment."

Levmore is president of ALDA and dean of the University of Chicago Law School. Van Zandt is vice president of ALDA and dean of Northwestern University Law School, in Chicago.

To maintain its tight control over law schools, the ABA has convinced most State Supreme Courts to refuse to allow graduates of schools it does not accredit to sit for their State bar exams. It doesn't matter, either, if those graduates are brilliant or hail from quality law schools accredited by prestigious non-ABA educational bodies (as our law school is).

Of course, some — even lots — of those graduates are Hispanic. Some will be working-class students who couldn't afford to attend Harvard, Yale or USC. Denying them the right to take the bar exam is another way of punishing schools seeking to provide affordable, quality legal education to working-class people.

If Hispanics are to be represented equitably in the legal profession and in the good, high-paying jobs that a law degree leads to, the Hispanic community will need to exert pressure to break the ABA's grip on law school accreditation by letting groups other than the ABA also accredit law schools, especially schools that are affordable.

Perhaps State Supreme Courts can

be prevailed upon to make this change. But, because they have resisted doing so in the past, it is more likely that Hispanics and others will have to persuade state legislatures to do it. They have the power, and they should use it.

(Lawrence Velvel is dean and cofounder of the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover, and acknowledged as a leader in the movement to increase racial diversity and improve the quality of education in the nation's law schools. Contact him at velvel@mslaw.edu.) © 2007

Immigrant Crime

(from front page)
Rumbaut says the erroneous popular myth of immigrant criminality is fed by media anecdotes. Sensationalistic stories aid and abet an erroneous public perception.

Harvard researcher Robert Sampson, participating in a briefing on the report, calls mistaken public attitudes about immigrants and higher-crime rates a "red meat" issue used by politicians. "Being tough on crime is very popular." In fact, the U.S., with decreasing crime, has one of the highest incarceration rates in the world. "There's a huge disconnect," he said.

I asked Sampson whether the findings are really not a reflection on how U.S. society assimilates information. His response: "I think that is part of our message. The data have been out here for a while but they continue to be interpreted in a particular way."

Rumbaut says there "is something almost in the DNA of American society, this fear that strangers coming from strange places undermine the welfare of the natives."

Mark Twain's wry wit comes to mind: "There are lies, damn lies, and statistics." But if the statistics have been telling the truth all along, public opinion that believes the contrary must fall in the categories of "lies and damn lies."

E-mail joseisla3@yahoo.com

Por qué son tan pocos los abogados Latino?

Lawrence Velvel
Solo un 3.9 por ciento aproximado de los abogados de esta nación son hispanos. Están entre un grupo que representa el 13 por ciento de la población de esta nación, más de 40 millones de personas. No obstante, aún cuando va subiendo este número rápidamente, la matriculación de hispanos en las escuelas de derecho de nuestra nación va declinando.

Las razones son varias. Algunas tienen poco que ver con las escuelas de derecho en sí, o sea, es la pobreza y los consecuentes índices bajos de graduación de la escuela secundaria y la universidad. Pero las escuelas de derecho, y el Colegio de Abogados de los EE.UU. (American Bar Association), sí juegan un papel importante en mantener fuera a los hispanos de la profesión legal.

A los hispanos los eliminan con el examen de admisión a la escuela de derecho, el LSAT (Law School Admissions Test). El Colegio de Aboga-

dos, el que acredita a casi todas las escuelas de derecho actualmente, insiste en implementar el examen. Sin embargo se ha dejado muy establecido que el LSAT no sólo discrimina contra los hispanos y los negros, sino que también favorece a los postulantes adinerados, cuyas notas son más altas que los postulantes de recursos medios o bajos de cualquier grupo.

Según Elizabeth Chambliss, profesora de la escuela de derecho de Nueva York, "La profesión legal es ya una de las profesiones de menor integración racial en los Estados Unidos, cuando se considera como agregado los cuatro grupos minoritarios (africano-americano, hispano, asiático-americano, indígena norteamericano)".

La profesora le echa la culpa a "el fiarse fuertemente" las escuelas de derecho en el LSAT, y explica que "Las notas de los africano-americanos y otros grupos minoritarios son, como promedio más bajas, que las de los blancos, sin embargo

las escuelas de derecho se fían de esta medida de aptitud más y marcadamente con el pasar del tiempo".

No obstante, así un hispano se sobrepone a la barrera del LSAT, se encuentra con barreras en el costo de la matrícula. Desde 1990, la matrícula en escuelas de derecho ha disparado en un 297 por ciento. La matrícula que cobra Yale es de \$38,000 al año; la Universidad del Sur de California en el centro de Los Angeles cobra \$37,971; la Universidad Metodista del Sur, en Dallas, cobra \$31,238; y la Universidad del Sur de Texas, en Houston, cobra \$20,850.

Lo que resulta es que cada una de estas escuelas tiene una población de estudiantes hispanos de seis por ciento o menos, a pesar de estar ubicadas, la mayoría, en centros de grandes poblaciones hispanas. La Universidad del Sur de California (USC), ubicada en un centro poblacional latino inmenso, tiene sólo 39 estudiantes mexicano-americanos, y 15 estudiantes latinos más entre los 628 estudiantes de derecho a tiempo completo.

En la Escuela de Derecho de Miami, universidad privada en Coral Gables, donde la matrícula anual es de \$31,094, sólo el 11.8 por ciento del cuerpo estudiantil es hispano. En la cercana Florida State University, universidad estatal, donde la matrícula es de \$8,543, la población estudiantil hispana es de 40.7 por ciento en la escuela de derecho.

Los costos y las matrículas de la escuela de derecho suben, en gran parte, gracias a los miembros del Colegio de Abogados que acreditan las universidades. "Las normas que exige el Colegio de Abogados para los profesores de derecho: salarios, condiciones laborales y estilos de vida extravagantes e instalaciones y bibliotecas lujosas, requieren enormes recursos financieros", escribió Debbie Hagan en su libro "Against The Tide" (Contra la corriente), que editó la University Press of America.

Las normas del Colegio de Abogados regulan todo — desde la cantidad de horas que pueden dictar los profesores (pocas) al número de profesores a tiempo completo costosos, los sábaticos, lo detallado de los edificios, los exámenes de postulación, y hasta los (muy caros) libros que

contiene la biblioteca, nota Hagan.

Es común que los profesores de derecho hoy ganen entre \$200,000 y \$300,000 al año por dictar pocas horas, mientras que los estudiantes, cuya matrícula paga sus salarios, se gradúan con deudas de \$100,000 o más que no se terminan de pagar por años.

Las regulaciones que excluyen a los hispanos son bonitas para los profesores de derecho, quienes llevan vidas lujosas, pero son perniciosas para la educación.

Como escribieron el año pasado Saul Levmore y David Van Zandt, de la Asociación Americana de Decanos de Derecho (American Law Deans Association): "El Colegio de Abogados continúa imponiendo requerimientos sobre las escuelas de derecho que acredita que no sólo son ajenos al proceso de asegurar la calidad de la educación legal, sino también intrusos en la autonomía de las instituciones, al querer dictar los términos y las condiciones de empleo".

Levmore es presidente de la asociación de decanos y decano de la escuela de derecho de la Universidad de Chicago. Van Zandt es vicepresidente de la asociación de decanos y decano de la escuela de derecho de la Northwestern University, en Chicago.

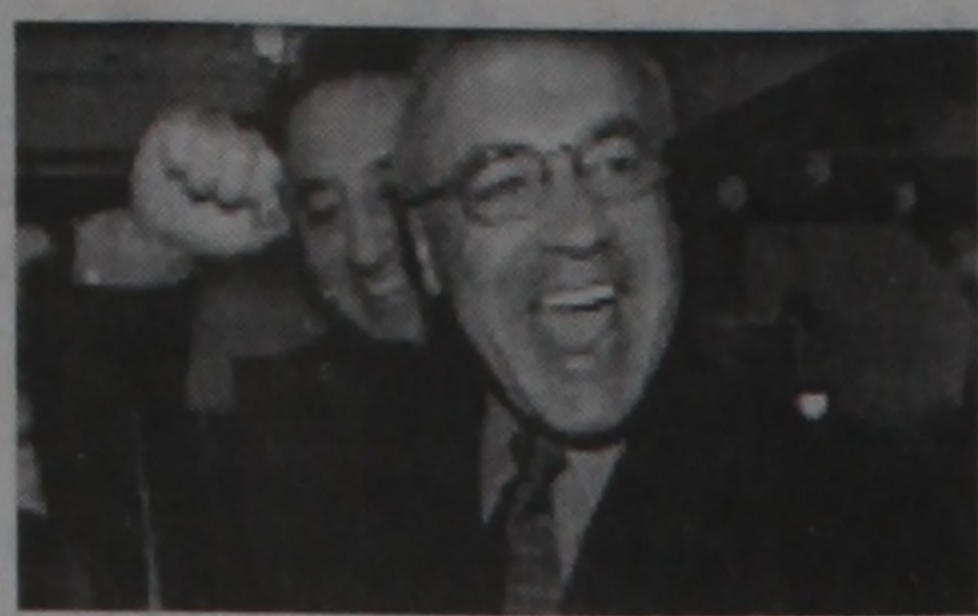
Con el fin de mantener firmes su control sobre las escuelas de derecho, el Colegio de Abogados han convencido a la mayoría de los Tribunales Supremos estatales a negarles el examen de entrada al colegio de abogados estatal a los estudiantes que salen de escuelas de derecho que el colegio nacional no acredita. Tampoco tiene importancia que los graduados son brillantes o si salen de escuelas de derecho de calidad que



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Hispanic chair survives confidence vote

Read Gore's Lips: He Is Not Running



Caucus members and aides said later that the vote was not unanimous and that it was conducted under a rule that would have required a two-thirds vote for Baca to lose. Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday.

Baca's spokesman, Michael Levin, issued a statement after Tuesday's meeting, saying: "Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus gave CHC chair Joe Baca a vote of confidence tonight. Congressman Baca appreciates the support of his CHC colleagues and looks forward to working with them on concerns of the nation's 45 million Hispanics."

A year ago, six caucus members - including Loretta and Linda Sanchez - cut ties to the group's campaign arm after it helped finance the unsuccessful campaigns of Baca's two sons for seats in the California Legislature. Jeremy Baca and Joe Baca Jr. both lost, to female opponents, in last June's Democratic primary.

Baca defended the decision to give money to them and other nonfederal candidates, saying the caucus should seek to build a farm team. Opponents said the focus instead should be on electing Latino House members.

The chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus survived a confidence vote Tuesday night, and he pledged to unify the group in the wake of an embarrassing leadership dispute that led one of his critics to quit.

Rep. Joe Baca, D-Calif., refused to give details about the vote after a 1 1/2-hour meeting broke up except to say that it happened and he won. His critics and others in the 21-member, all-Democratic caucus refused to comment.

Baca critics had been pushing for a new leadership structure that would dilute his power, but he had resisted.

"We're all united," Baca told reporters. "This is basically a step in the right direction."

Baca has been accused by fellow Southern California Democratic Rep. Loretta Sanchez of calling her a "whore," which he denies. Sanchez quit the group and other women in the caucus complained that Baca's leadership fosters an atmosphere that belittles women.

Baca was supported by only one of six women in the caucus when he was elected chairman in November, and Sanchez, her sister Rep. Linda Sanchez, and two others subsequently contested the election procedure.

Loretta Sanchez has said she'll rejoin the caucus only if Baca is out as chairman. Through her spokeswoman, she declined to comment Tuesday.



He's the darling of the Internet and Hollywood, a passionate lecturer, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee and has commanded standing ovations at the Oscars and, just a few days ago, among students at the University of Miami. But Al Gore is not running for president, say those closest to him - including Fort Lauderdale, Fla., friend Mitchell Berger, a top Gore fundraiser and part of his legal team when the 2000 presidential race deadlocked in Florida.

Those who want Gore to jump back into politics have started a list of Web sites such as draftgore2008.org, algore.org and other variations on the theme. And maybe a telling sign that someone thinks he might run again is a conservative think tank's attack on him last week based on his energy use.

But Berger and others close to Gore flatly say he isn't running and that his attention is on the dangers of global warming. That's the topic of his book and the movie "An Inconvenient Truth," which won an Academy Award.

"It's important to state why he's not running for president: He thinks the planet is dying. That's kind of important, don't you think?" Berger said.

Gore has urged his supporters to move on politically, and Berger has done so by adding his fundraising talents to the campaign of former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina. Berger said Gore

supporters are strewn among the camps of the major Democratic candidates, such as Edwards, Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson.

But as candidates such as Clinton and Edwards squabble about their past support for an Iraq war that is especially unpopular among Democratic primary voters, Gore can tout his opposition. And his Oscar buzz and attention for global warming have warmed up his formerly stiff image.

"The other candidates are having their spats. He's building political good will," said Doug Hattaway, Gore's national spokesman during the 2000 campaign that ended with the controversial recount in Florida after Gore won the popular vote but not the election. "Republicans would see him as a formidable candidate since he beat them last time."

A conservative think tank wasted no time going after Gore after the Oscars, accusing him of hypocrisy for living in a 10,000-square-foot Nashville mansion that uses tens of thousands of dollars in energy each year. The Tennessee Center for Policy Research said Gore's average monthly electric bill was \$1,359 and average natural-gas bill was \$1,080.

Gore spokeswoman Kalee Kreider said Gore pays extra to Nashville utilities to use wind,

solar and other renewable-energy sources. And, she said, he pays to develop renewable energy in other parts of the world to offset the effects of his energy use. His profits from the book and movie go to global-warming education, she said.

And that topic is the only campaign he's interested in, Kreider said. Gore hasn't refused to ever enter the race. But, Kreider said, "He truly has no intention of running."

Hattaway said Gore has the name recognition to jump into the race later this year. But the nomination for the 2008 presidential candidate is creeping closer. Florida and numerous other states are considering moving their primaries up to Feb. 5, meaning much of the race will come in a flurry next January and February.

John Constantinide, the speaker of the student senate at the University of Miami, said Gore's message has piqued the interest of many students. Constantinide, a Republican, said Gore was well received Wednesday night by the 6,800 people at the University of Miami speech.

"A lot of students would like to see him run," Constantinide said. "The second time is the charm is a phrase that works for a lot of candidates."

U.S. Tax Program for Illegal Immigrants Under Fire

The hundreds of thousands of immigrants working in the United States illegally are still expected to pay income taxes. The program works by providing a special tax identification number instead of a Social Security number - and participants are guaranteed that the information can't be used to deport them.

But the program's critics say that it amounts to the Internal Revenue Service abetting illegal immigrants.

More than 1 million non-U.S. citizens will file their taxes this year. One of the reasons that those who are living and working illegally in the United States want to file taxes is that they see an opportunity to prove their economic contribution and document their residence.

Last year, 1.4 million people used the special numbers. The last time the government checked, more than half of the people using an individual taxpayer identification number, or ITIN, were illegal immigrants.

Federal tax law prohibits the IRS from sharing information with other government agencies, including immigration authorities. So it's the promise of confidentiality that allows immigrants to file their taxes without fear of being deported.

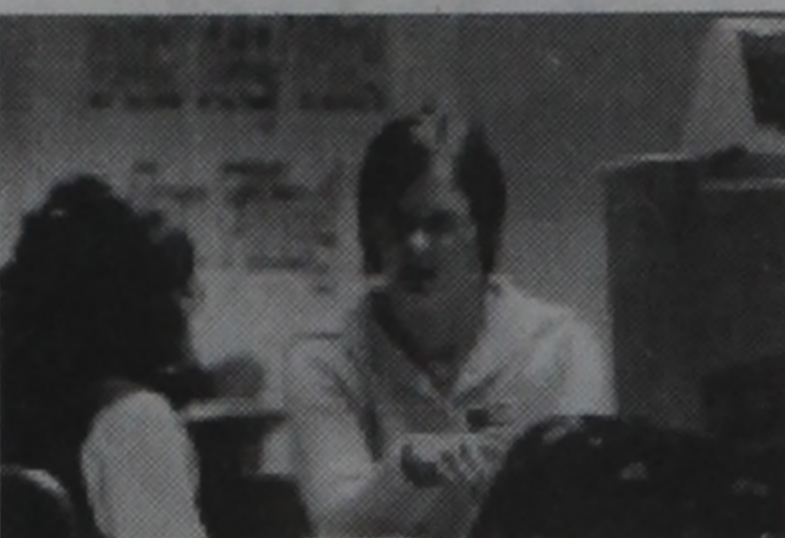
The U.S. Treasury created ITINs 11 years ago, to help people working here without Social Security numbers comply with U.S. tax laws. According to the law, if you earn money here you have to report it, even if you're here illegally.

Marti Dinerstein, president of Immigration Matters, a public policy firm in New York that advocates for stricter immigration laws, calls the situation "ridiculous."

"They know that people that are using ITINs are in the country illegally," Dinerstein says. "It's basically tantamount to institutionalizing illegal immigration in the country."

The IRS won't comment on this, although in congressional hearings, IRS officials have acknowledged concern that the ITINs may be used for non-tax purposes. In fact, some banks have accepted the numbers in lieu of a Social Security number.

Immigration officials say the IRS is just doing what it's supposed to do - collect taxes. They say the onus is on employers to verify the legal status of their employees.



Calderon vows to restore Mexico's appeal

Mexican President Felipe Calderon won't be fighting for migration reform when he meets with President Bush next week. Instead, he will be spelling out what he intends to do to keep Mexicans at home.

Calderon, who was inaugurated on Dec. 1, has pledged to take 100 actions in his first 100 days in office, many of which represent the first steps toward "curing" Mexico's long tradition of illegal migration to the U.S.

If implemented, his proposals could help transform Mexico from a labor-exporting country with relatively low growth, productivity and wages into an investment-rich, job-producing economy with better living standards for its 107 million people, nearly half of whom still live in poverty.

"We are laying the foundation for a more just, healthy society with better and more equal opportunities for all," he said.

Even a modicum of success for

Calderon would improve on the record of his predecessor Vicente Fox, who failed to persuade the United States to accept Mexican guest workers and also could not put in place proposed reforms.

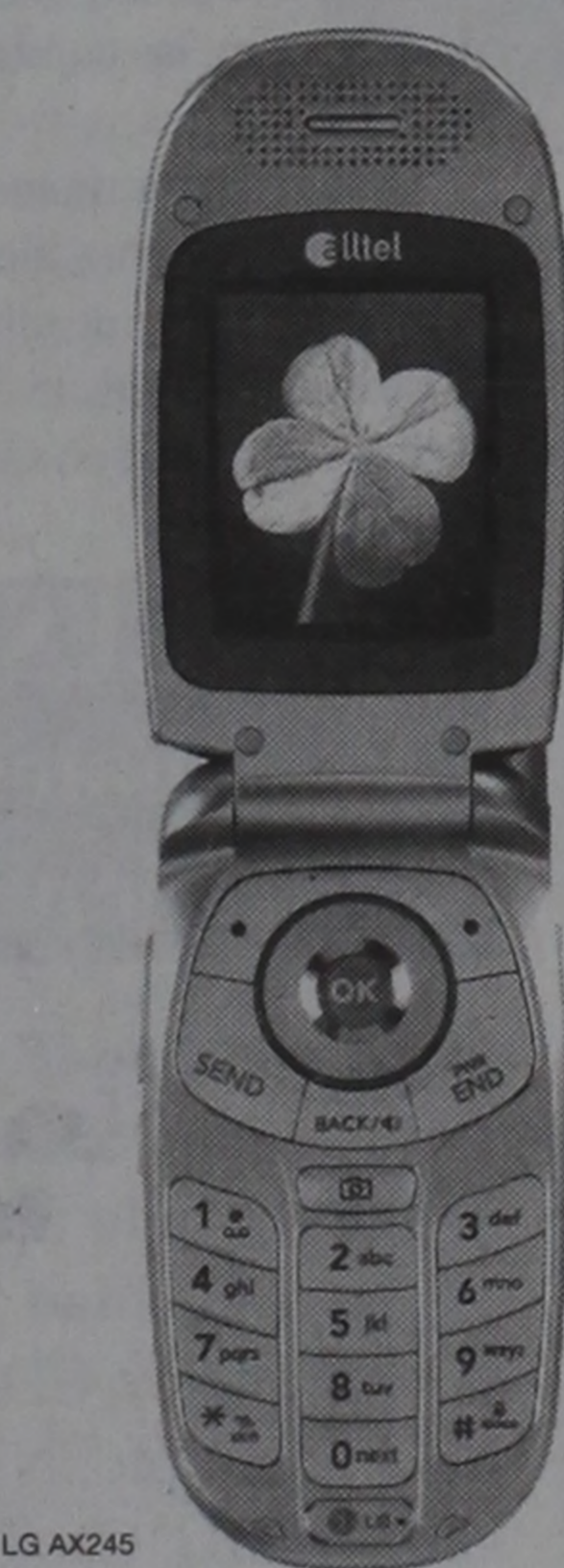
Like Fox, Calderon faces powerful Mexican monopolies and oligopolies, union leaders and old-school politicians who have resisted changes to a system that concentrates power and wealth in a small number of hands and blocks attempts to improve competition, lower consumer prices and open the job market to more people.

Unlike Fox, Calderon has shown he can rally lawmakers and others behind his plans: Congress unanimously passed his 2007 federal budget and he has united state governments behind a nationwide crackdown on drug trafficking.

"It won't be easy. It won't be fast, but yes, it is possible," Calderon said.

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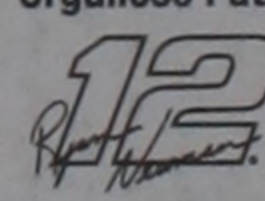
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Essayist Examines Art of a Former Migrant Worker

RICHARD RODRIGUEZ, NewsHour Essayist: At a time when the Mexican migrant worker illegally entering the United States is a disturbing figure to many Americans, one migrant laborer is being posthumously lionized in New York City.

The art critic from the New York Times places Martin Ramirez, a Mexican migrant worker, among the greatest artists of the 20th century. Look. Look at this exhibit of his work at the American Folk Art Museum, and you will see the cartography of cruel fate.

Ramirez would spend the last 30 years of his life in U.S. mental hospitals, which is where he became an artist. He was born in 1895 in Mexico. Lacking formal education, he worked as a sharecropper and journeyman laborer to support his family.

Already in those years, the 1920s, America was luring Mexicans north to work. Martin Ramirez's journey from Mexico to Northern California was on trains. In his drawings, trains emerge from tunnels and plunge into tunnels.

He worked for a time building railroads; he worked the mines. His tunnels, sexual or elementary

or paranoid, are portals to mystery, and loss, and possibility.

There is no sky. The laborer's attention is always to the ground. The swirling parallelism of fields, the tedious geometry, furrows, corrugations, the sickness of repetition, the discipline of perspective, serial progression. Even the curls of the Breck girl have become a cultivated field.

It is a measure of the tragic paradox of Mexico that, early in the 20th century, Mexico, a deeply Catholic country, had a fiercely anti-Catholic government. Skyscraper-like Madonnas electrify Ramirez's imagination. Some consolation of the remembered Mexican church merges with the gigantism of America.

Ramirez came from Jalisco, a state where Catholics, calling themselves Cristeros, resisted the secular federal government, whose soldiers on horseback, vested with bullets, brought death and ruin to resistant villages.

One day while working in California, Ramirez received a letter from home. He misread the letter to mean that his wife

had changed her political affiliation and joined the side of the federal government. Ramirez and his wife were estranged for the rest of their lives, separated in a labyrinth of simple misunderstanding.

The tragic forms of the world ensure that the man, the woman, the dog will never find one another. Always an anomaly on the obsessively formal landscape, the man on the horse might be Martin himself or a hated Mexican federal trooper. The woman might be his betrayed wife or an idealized cow girl, her head cut from a magazine.

In the 1930s, during the Depression, Ramirez was homeless and acting erratically when he was arrested by the police in Stockton, California. Hospitalized, he was first diagnosed as manic depressive, later as schizophrenic.

Until his death in 1963, he remained an asylum inmate. He would have heard trains passing near his hospital in Stockton.

Always the life, the thought is contained within doors and windows, perhaps accounting for the proscenium for which his vision is presented. In larger landscapes, he transcends the proscenium. Several times, Martin escaped the hospital. Several times, he returned, stood at

the door, waiting to be readmitted.

On scraps of paper, on pages of newsprint, on the paper used on medical examination tables, using broken or melted Crayolas, forming glue from mashed potatoes and spit, Martin Ramirez drew the two worlds he had known. Cars speed between Mexico and America; the roadway is continuous. Behold, the idealized village of Mexico joined to the glittering American city.

In reality, as we say on leaving the museum, Mexico and America form an unlikely continuum. One culture is seized by a feverish dream of the future; the other cannot escape memory.

The remarkable thing is that the migrant worker who spent his life looking at the ground saw the Americas whole. The irony is that Ramirez's Mexican-American vision of past joined to future was the vision of a madman.

The work of Martin Ramirez will be on exhibit at the American Folk Art Museum in New York City through April 29th.

Chica lit inspires Hispanic authors

Chilean author Isabel Allende's 1982 best-seller House of Spirits helped generate a wave of Latin American literature featuring heroines who dared to cross geographic, political and social boundaries.

For her latest work, Allende, whose books have been translated into 27 languages, has gone back -- way back -- to the 16th century.

The novel tells the tale of real-life Spanish seamstress

Ines Suarez, who wielded the sword as well as the needle, beheading her enemies, pulling arrows from soldiers' flesh, divining water in the desert and captivating the heart of Chilean conqueror Pedro de Valdivia.

As with Zoro, Allende's last novel, Ines of My Soul (HarperCollins) is an action-packed view of the New World. It is closer in style to Treasure Island than the magical realism of House of Spirits.

Allende is not alone in her voyage back to the Spanish conquest.

HarperCollins' Rayo division also has released English and Spanish versions of Nicaraguan poet and author Gioconda Belli's The Scroll of Seduction, the story of the rise and betrayal of 16th-century Spanish Queen Juana of Castile. Belli mixes the tale of the queen, better known as Juana the Mad, with the obsessive love story between a modern-day history professor and a teenage orphan.

This year, Simon & Schuster's Atria Books published Malinche by Laura Esquivel, author of Like Water for Chocolate, about the Aztec woman who helped Hernando Cortez conquer Mexico.

"People say, 'Why is everyone writing historical novels?'" jokes Allende. "We don't call each other and say 'Hey I'm writing about this.' It just happens to be in the air."

Allende and Belli see parallels in the Spanish conquerors' search for gold and the current tensions over oil in the Middle East.

"Greed has been the great motivation in history -- greed and power and sex are the great driving forces of men," Allende says.

Belli adds another theory. "When one is in a situation in a world so convoluted as this one

is, it's difficult to get distance and write about the situation. It's a way to get perspective and decipher what is happening," she says.

Mitchell Kaplan, Miami Book Fair International co-founder and owner of the four-store Books



& Books chain, says the latest releases by Allende and Belli highlight the growing interest of major U.S. publishing houses in Hispanic literature in Spanish and English.

Juana's story highlights how little the situation has changed for many women around the globe, Belli says. The queen is locked away and manipulated first by her husband, then by her father and eventually by her son, Emperor Charles V.

"In some Arab countries, women are still kept in the home. What happens under the Taliban isn't much different from what Juana faced. It seems unbelievable that 500 years later, women are still punished for their passion and for not following the rules," Belli says.

The two novels show the flip side of women's lives during the Spanish conquest. In Spain, Juana is called crazy when she refuses to choose between love and power and is eventually imprisoned for more than 40 years.

"She is the opposite of Elizabeth I, who had to renounce her sexuality and femininity to succeed as a ruler," Belli says.

Meanwhile, Allende shows that in the New World, at least, a woman could still carve out her own identity.

Ines is betrayed by Valdivia but eventually discovers love and marriage with the Chilean governor; Valdivia falls victim to his own avarice.

Like their characters, Allende and Belli have much in common. Both were born to wealthy, educated families and sympathized with the leftist political elements in their countries. Allende, 64, was a journalist who fled Chile after Augusto Pinochet's 1973 military coup toppled her uncle's government, eventually marrying an American and settling in San Francisco.

Belli, 58, less well-known internationally, joined Nicaragua's Sandinistas in the 1970s and held political posts while writing poetry before she eventually became disillusioned with the party. She, too, married an American and now splits her time between Los Angeles and Managua, serving as a spokeswoman for a splinter political party, the Sandinista Renewal Movement.

Ultimately, though, both authors say it was the women's stories, waiting to be told, that inspired them to write.

As Ines says when she discovers water in the Chilean desert, "I can find water only where there is water... I can't create it."

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La reinvencción de Jennifer Peña

En su nuevo disco 'Dicen que el tiempo' la cantante texana presenta un estilo completamente novedoso. Su álbum anterior, Seducción, fue editado en 2004. Esto significa que Jennifer Peña se tomó mucho tiempo para lanzar su siguiente producción, sobre todo si se tiene en cuenta que los plazos dentro de la música popular latina son particularmente breves. Y parece que la demora tuvo que ver con el título mismo de su nuevo trabajo: Dicen que el tiempo.

"Todo el mundo tiene una historia con el tiempo; se supone que cura heridas, que borra el dolor", es lo primero que dice la joven artista. "A mí, el paso del tiempo me dio la oportunidad de pensar en el rumbo que quería dar a mi carrera y de crecer no sólo como artista, sino también como mujer".

Hay que tomar en cuenta que Jennifer se metió por primera vez a un estudio cuando tenía sólo 11 años, y que en esos momentos no controlaba su propia carrera. Aunque muchos artistas hablan de "crecimiento artístico", las palabras de esta texana de 26 años de edad tienen sabor a verdad, empezando por el hecho de que Dicen que el tiempo contiene por primera vez sus aportes en la composición de canciones.

"En realidad, empecé a escribir canciones desde que era niña, pero nunca tuve la confianza necesaria como para seguir practicando", recuerda ella. También tuvo la ayuda de Obie Bermúdez, el conocido cantautor boricua que además es su novio. "Eso me dio el impulso necesario como para meterme de lleno en la creación".

Para demostrarlo, el disco se abre con Soy así, un tema de evidente tendencia autobiográfica. "Era importante compartir esas experiencias con mi gente, además de que yo considero que vivo una vida relativamente normal", comenta la vocalista. "Aunque la canción habla mucho de mí, pienso que muchas personas se identificarán con ella, sobre todo las chavas de mi edad, que van a pensar que la hice con ellas en mente".

Si bien lo de la "vida normal" puede sonar extraño para quienes sepan que Jennifer es una artista extremadamente popular, lo cierto es que ella no ha figurado mucho en las revistas de chismes.

El único incidente realmente polémico de su existencia se dio hace un par de años, cuando tanto ella como Bermúdez se vieron involucrados en una pelea pública con los integrantes del grupo K1. Uno de ellos había sido pareja sentimental de Peña, por lo que se dijo que el



enfrentamiento se debía a los celos.

"Estoy muy cerca de mi familia y no necesito de cosas así para disfrutar de lo que hago", enfatiza la entrevistada. "No considero que ese hecho forme realmente parte de mi vida, porque no representa lo que me ocurre normalmente".

Cuando habla de "crecimiento artístico", se refiere también evidentemente al hecho de que este disco representa un giro musical en su carrera. Si todos sus trabajos anteriores alternaban baladas y cumbias, Dicen que el tiempo se muestra como un proyecto mucho más ambicioso; la cumbia se encuentra bastante relegada y, cuando se presenta, lo hace en medio de una interesante fusión musical que da cabida a ritmos jamaquinos como el reggae y el ska.

"Lo que hice fue usar los elementos de los géneros que conozco, como la música mexicana y el pop, y mezclarlos con cosas más mod-

ernas", reconoce la artista. "La música ha cambiado mucho, pero lo regional mexicano sigue sonando igual; yo quise hacer algo diferente, que pudiera estar más cerca de mi generación".

Jennifer dio su primer paso a la fama al interpretar la voz infantil de la representante máxima del género tejano en la película Selena (1997). Desde entonces, las comparaciones con la desaparecida megastrella no dejaron de escucharse, poniendo a Peña de inmediato dentro de un rubro que hasta el momento se caracterizaba por un estilo que se basaba, al igual que el de Selena, en las cumbias y las baladas.

"Quiero seguir representando a la música tejana y siempre lo haré, porque soy de allá", dice la cantante, que nació en San Antonio y se crió en Corpus Christi.

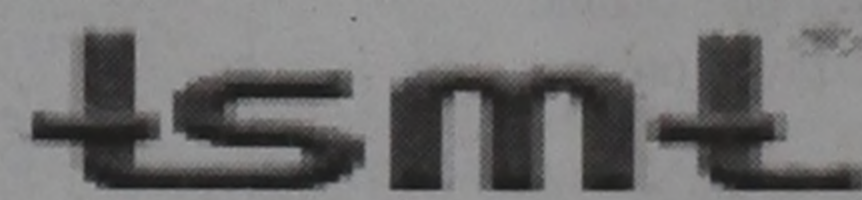
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Diabetes effort targets Hispanics Camarones a la mexicana

Diabetes, the fifth-deadliest disease in the United States, affects nearly 2.5 million Hispanics 20 years of age and older, according to the American Diabetes Association.

So a new program sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company, along with Texas Wal-Mart stores, is aimed at educating the Hispanic population about early symptoms and dangers of the disease.

On Feb. 24, volunteers gathered at five area stores to conduct tests on willing participants during Hispanic Diabetes Awareness Day. The program will continue the rest of the year at different sites in Texas.

"There is a crisis of diabetes in the United States," said David Schraeder, a spokesperson for Eli Lilly and Company, a pharmaceutical corporation. "It is especially a problem in the Hispanic community. What we're here to do is provide awareness about an issue that needs to be addressed."

Hispanics are 1.7 times more likely to have diabetes than Caucasians, according to the American Diabetes Association Web site at diabetes.org.

People with the disease have high levels of glucose in their blood, which is the result of a

decrease in insulin production, according to the ADA. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the body does not produce insulin. Type 2 is caused when the body does not produce enough insulin or does not properly use it. This type accounts for 90 percent to 95 percent of all diabetes cases.

There are 14.6 million diagnosed cases of diabetes in America and about 6.2 million undiagnosed cases, the ADA says. Another 54 million people have pre-diabetes, which means their glucose levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. This usually happens before people develop Type 2 diabetes.

During the awareness event at the Wal-Mart at 1200 S.E. Military Drive, people were screened for warning signs such as high blood pressure, lack of activity, obesity and a family history of diabetes. "We see so much diabetes in today's society," said Linda Alicea, a registered nurse at Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital. "This disease is hereditary. If one parent has it there is a 50 percent chance their child will have it. If both parents have it then it is very likely that the child will have diabetes, too. Tests such as these can alert people to early symptoms of the disease."

As shoppers passed the

tables littered with handouts, volunteers eagerly approached those they felt could be at risk. One sign they look for in people is a dark ring around the neck or on the knuckles, a condition known as acanthosis nigricans, Alicea said. The skin discoloration is caused by an increase in insulin levels due to obesity. Although the information is readily available, many people still ignore the possibility that they are at risk, the volunteers said.

"Most people just don't want to find out they have diabetes," said Alicea. "That's scary, because if it goes untreated it can only get worse."

For Molly Garza, living with diabetes has not meant slowing down her busy lifestyle. The 71-year-old, who uses medication to help combat her illness, has found that keeping active, eating healthy and staying informed are necessary for her well-being.

"I was diagnosed with diabetes in 1992," said Garza. "I was in denial for a long time so I probably had it before that. Now I have glaucoma and the doctor said it could get worse if I don't take care of myself."

"I have kin who have lost limbs and died from diabetes," she added. "It affects so many different parts of the body and you have to stay on top of it. The worse part is that it feels like it's never ending."

Her daughter, Margaret Ann

Garza, said she realizes she is at a high risk for getting the disease because her late father was also diabetic. She and her children stay active and aware of the dangers associated with the illness, Margaret said. But along with watching her own diet, the concerned daughter said she also must keep a close eye on her mother.



"I have to keep things that are tempting away from her," she said. "It is for her own good. It is good practice for me and my kids, too. We all must be careful because it's in our genes."

Others that have the disease can succumb to many complications including stroke, heart disease, amputations, kidney disease, blindness, nervous system damage, sexual dysfunction and complications of pregnancy, according to ADA reports. Diabetics who are smokers can also increase their risk of heart disease. Because there is no cure for the disease, people are forced to drastically change their lifestyles.

"People need to watch what they eat," Alicea said. "Their diets should consist of more fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Stay away from foods with lots of sugar and saturated fats. But the main thing people need to do is stay active. People need to get away from the TV and get more exercise."

Para los mexicanos el camarón es el rey de los mariscos. No es para menos, sus ríos, lagunas y costas están repletos de ellos; los hay de todos colores y tamaños.

Por esa razón es inevitable encontrarlos en muchos platillos de la cocina regional.

En los mercados de Estados Unidos encontramos algunas de estas variedades, como el camarón café, que también llaman camarón grande o gigante.

Otro tipo de camarón común en los supermercados es el rosado que, como su nombre lo dice, tiene ese color combinado con blanco, o más bien una tonalidad nacarada. El sabor es dulzón y la carne firme y consistente.

Muy apetecibles, también, son los camarones con cabeza que resultan muy apropiados para cocinar en paellas, sopas y caldos.

La chef y escritora Alicia Gironella D'Angeli define muy bien, y en pocas palabras, cómo se prepara con éxito un platillo a base de camarones. Ella dice que el secreto está en "comprarlo bien y cocinarlo poco".

Tomando en cuenta esta recomendación, siempre trate de adquirir camarones de color, talla y textura uniforme. Si no los va a cocinar el mismo día que los compró, guárdelos en el congelador.

Para descongelar los camarones, hágalos despacio, siempre en el refrigerador. Lo recomendable es hacerlo en un período de tiempo de 24 y 48 horas.

La cocción siempre tiene que ser rápida, porque cuando la carne se sobrecocina, se pone muy blanca y dura. Trate de retirarlos de la estufa cuando la carne del centro aún está rosada y déjelos que se terminen de cocer en su mismo calor.

Para cocerlos a la parrilla, al vapor o a la plancha, déjeles el caparazón para que protejan la carne y sellen el sabor. Si los va a preparar fritos o salteados, cócfelos sin cáscara.

Algunos de los platillos populares a base de camarón que se consumen en México son al mojo de ajo, salteados en aceite de oliva y con mucho ajo machacado y dorado; al tamarindo, salteados en mantequilla y cocidos en una pasta de tamarindo, caldo de pollo, cebolla y fécula de maíz. También están los camarones adobados, cocidos en salsa de chile ancho y chipotle, y en escabeche, cocidos en vinagre blanco, orégano y laurel, entre otros ingredientes.

RECETAS: Camarones al mojo de ajo

Ingredientes 36 camarones medianos con su caparazón 15 dientes de ajo, tres enteros y 12 machacados 3/4 de cucharadita de sal 3/4 de cucharadita de pimienta, recién molida 3/4 de cucharadita de vinagre blanco 3 cucharadas de aceite de oliva 5 cucharadas de mantequilla 3 cucharadas de jugo de limón

Preparación Con cuidado de no romper el caparazón, divida los camarones desde el centro de su parte interior hacia abajo, pero sin partirlos en dos. Limpie toda la venita negra que se ve a simple vista y enjuague con suficiente agua fría. Aparte, en la licuadora haga un puré con los ajos enteros, la sal, la pimienta y el vinagre. Marine con esta mezcla los camarones por aproximadamente 30 minutos. En una sartén grande caliente el aceite y derrita la mantequilla. Añada los ajos machacados y saltee, a fuego moderado, por aproximadamente tres minutos, o hasta que estén dorados. Agregue los camarones con su caparazón hacia abajo, baje el calor de la estufa, tape y cocine de dos a tres minutos, hasta que los camarones adquieran un color opaco. Al final, rocíe con el jugo de limón y retire del fuego. Los camarones al mojo de ajo se suelen acompañar con arroz blanco. Da para seis porciones.

Hispanic Women At Higher Risk For Heart Disease

Hispanic women's heart disease risk is comparable to the heart disease risk level of Caucasian women who are about a decade older. This disagrees with a long-held belief that Hispanic women have less heart disease than Caucasian women, researchers reported today at the American Heart Association's 47th Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention.

"The prevailing theme in medicine has been that Hispanic patients have fewer heart attacks and strokes than Caucasians, even though Hispanics seem to have equal, if not worse, cardiac risk

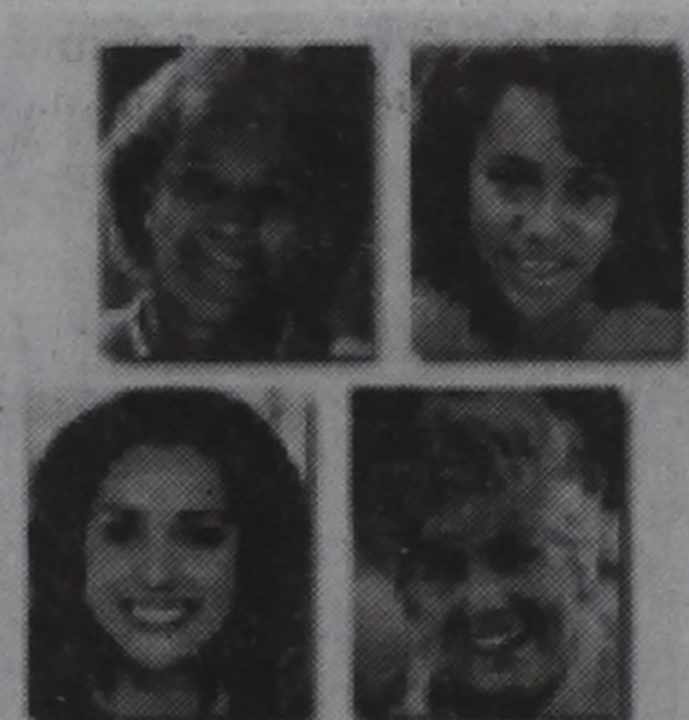
factors and tend to be more socio-economically deprived," said John C. Teeters, M.D., study lead author and fellow in the department of cardiology, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. "In clinical practice, however, we see the opposite, with Hispanic patients who seem to have heart disease earlier than Caucasians."

To explain the disparity, researchers have raised questions about the quality of Hispanic population census gathering in the United States, wondering if Hispanics are underrepresented in the census and health records because they tend to migrate back to their homelands to die and are more

likely to be illegal immigrants.

To compare heart disease risk among the ethnic populations, Teeters and colleagues conducted a series of free community health screenings at churches, community centers and outpatient clinics that cater to Hispanics. They performed medical histories to determine cardiac risk, as well as measured each subject's waist circumference, activity level, weight, height, blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol level.

They gathered the same data in a Caucasian group of people and compared data among the women in the study.



There were 79 Hispanic and 91 Caucasian adult women in the study. The average age in the Hispanic group was 53, versus 63 years in the Caucasian group. Sixty-one percent of the Hispanic women were

postmenopausal versus 85 percent of the Caucasian women.

When combined, the heart disease risk for the two groups was about the same, according to Teeters.

"If you look at prevalence by age, there is a clear trend for Hispanics towards increased prevalence at a younger age, with earlier onset in Hispanic women for these cardiac risk factors," he said.

While the women scored similarly in the areas of hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol and waist circumference, the researchers found that the Hispanic women's prehypertension rate (32

percent) was significantly higher than Caucasian women (19 percent). The Hispanic women's activity levels were also significantly lower when compared to the Caucasian women, and Hispanic women had a slightly higher rate of metabolic syndrome.

"The study suggests that Hispanic women develop cardiac risk factors earlier than their Caucasian counterparts and that being Hispanic could be an independent risk factor for heart disease among women," Teeters said.

Doctors should consider more aggressively treating and trying to prevent heart disease at earlier ages, Teeter said.

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Knight campaigning to get Vitale admitted into Hall of Fame

Coach Bob Knight is ticked off again, but it has nothing to do with his Texas Tech Red Raiders.

He's upset that broadcaster and longtime pal Dick Vitale keeps falling short in his bid to join Knight in the basketball Hall of Fame.

So Knight, himself inducted in 1991, has lined up some big names to write letters to the Hall in a campaign for Vitale's admission, including John Wooden, Pete Newell, Dean Smith, Mike Krzyzewski, John Chaney, Don Haskins, Lute Olson, Denny Crum, Jim Boeheim and Rick Barnes.

"I would hope that the voices of all of these coaches, as you read these letters, would take care of what we all feel should have been done several years ago," Knight said in his own letter to the Hall.

Vitale, a commentator for 27 years, is one of 15 finalists for induction into the Springfield, Mass., Hall this year. Twice before, in 2004 and 2006, he was a finalist but didn't get enough votes.

Knight wrote to officials after Vitale was not named as a finalist in 2005, telling John Doleva, the president and chief executive officer of the Hall, that the omission was a "tremendous mistake." Then last year he persuaded the high-profile coaches to send letters.

The problem is, the committee of 24 that selects inductees won't read letters or peruse anything submitted on behalf of any player, coach, contributor or referee, Doleva said. A finalist needs 18 votes to be inducted. "I think that's absolutely ludicrous that they don't receive information from people that know about" those nominated, Knight said.

Members of the selection committee are not made public and even they don't know who else votes, Doleva said.

Last month Knight sent a letter to the Hall's board chairman, Russ Granik, saying the letters from 2006 show "incredibly strong and overwhelming support" for Vitale's election. The opinions of those who wrote letters are being "ignored" if they don't make into voters' hands, Knight said Monday.

Doleva said the process does not include politicking.

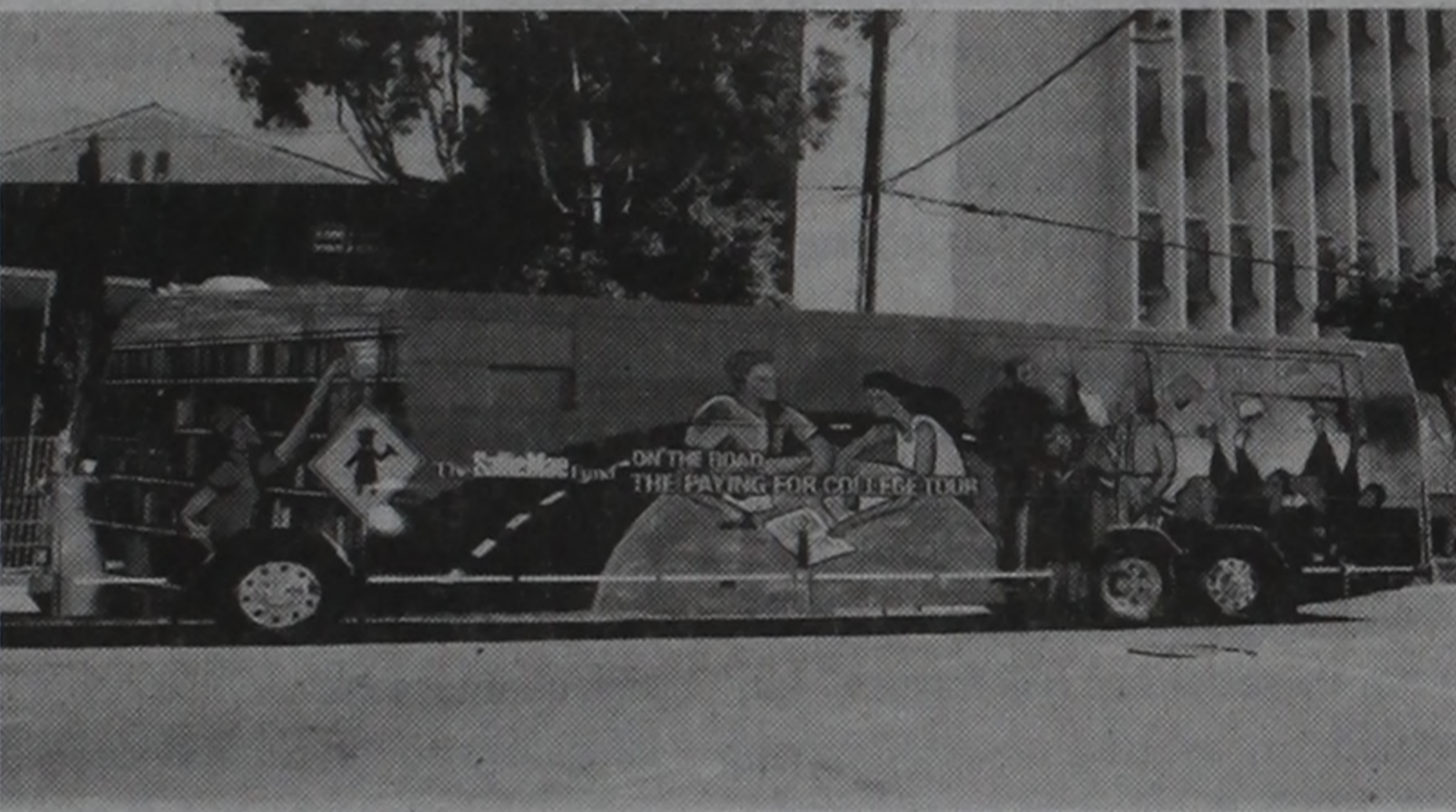
"This is a policy that we just do not put out this extraneous information," he said. "We're following procedure so that we have a level playing field."

Vitale, who said he doesn't question the selection method, is grateful for the coaches' support.

"It's something I'll have the rest of my life," the 67-year-old former University of Detroit and Detroit Pistons coach said. "What could please someone more than that?"

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SPCA relocates one WIC Clinic

South Plains Community Action Association has recently relocated one of its WIC clinics to 602 W. Loop 289 in Lubbock. The Clinic was formerly located at Savoy Square. The new facility is unique in that it also includes a women's health clinic.

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children program) is a federally funded program that provides nutritional education, healthful foods, and instruction in smart shopping, food preparation, and safety. WIC also provides breast feeding support and instruction in breast feeding methods. WIC participants receive vouchers in the form of the WIC Lone Star Card for milk, cereal, eggs, cheese, peanut butter, juices, beans, and infant formula.

The Women's Health Clinic provides uninsured women with gynecological exams and Pap tests, related health care screenings that include sexually transmitted disease tests, breast and cervical cancer screenings screenings for diabetes, cholesterol, and blood pressure. Many options for birth control are available. Funding for these services is available through the Texas women's Health Medicaid program and other funding sources during their clinic visit. Clients are asked to bring the following documents to their clinic visit for the application process which includes: Σ proof of income & * proof of citizenship and identity.

The staff of the new South Plains Community Action Clinic invites you to become a client of our programs. All you have to do is call our Women's Health Clinic at 806-687-9898 or the WIC Clinic at 806-747-0178 to schedule an appointment. Call anytime between 9 am to 5 pm. Monday through Friday. For more information about South Plains Community Action Association and its program, go to the agency's website at spcaa.org

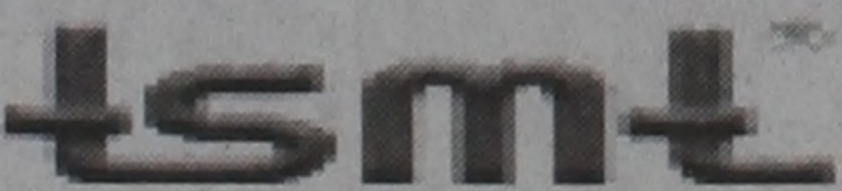
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Broken nose hands Marquez WBC title

Challenger Rafael Marquez broke Israel Vazquez's nose with a hard right in the first round, then took the WBC super bantamweight crown when Vazquez couldn't continue after the seventh.

Although Vazquez had trouble breathing because of his swollen nose, he kept going and caught Marquez with a left hook that sent him to the canvas in the third round of their bout Saturday night.

"I was only able to breathe through my mouth and that's why I was taking a lot of shots," Vazquez said through a translator. "When I came back to my corner the last round, I couldn't breathe at all and I told Freddie (trainer Freddie Roach), that's it."

Marquez didn't realize he had broken Vazquez's nose and was surprised when the referee ended the fight. Vazquez immediately came over to congratulate the new champion.

"I was surprised when he stopped it because he had dropped me in the (third round).

I thought it was close," Marquez said, also speaking through a translator.

Both fighters said they would like to have a rematch.

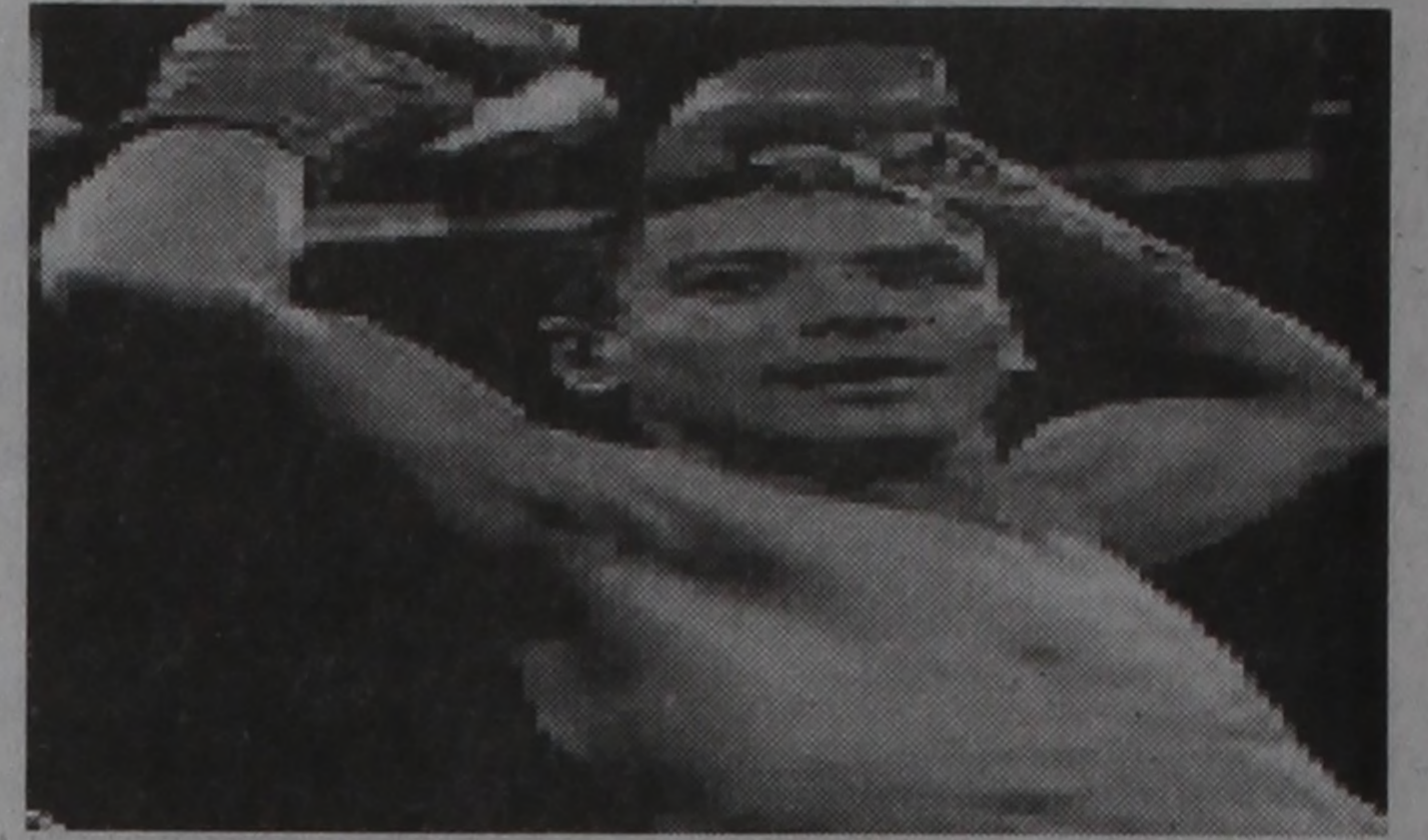
Marquez (37-3, 33 knockouts) was ahead on two judges' cards through seven rounds, and the third had it even. Vazquez is 41-4, with 31 knockouts.

"He (Vazquez) told me right after the first round that his nose was broken," Roach said. "He wanted to stop a couple of rounds earlier, but I told him to suck it up because I thought Marquez was tiring."

"He went a couple more rounds and said, 'I can't do this anymore.'"

Marquez, from Mexico City, weighed in at 121 1/2 pounds. Vazquez, who was born in Mexico City and lives in the Los Angeles suburb of Huntington Park, weighed 121 3/4.

Victor Burgos, stopped by IBF champion Vic Darchinyan in the 12th round of their flyweight title bout, was taken to a hospital for precautionary tests, ring physician



Paul Wallace said.

Wallace said Burgos' vital signs were normal, but that "We didn't like the way he was responding."

The doctor said he grew concerned when Burgos slumped on his stool in the corner after the bout, but that the fighter was conscious at the end of the fight and still conscious when he was taken to the hospital.

Burgos' knees were wobbly and he was reeling around the ring and couldn't defend himself, so referee John Schorle stopped the fight at 1:27 of the 12th.

Darchinyan ran his record to 28-0 with his 22nd knockout. He dominated the bout with his powerful left hooks and uppercuts, losing only one round on just one of the three judges' cards.

Darchinyan rocked Burgos with a left in the second round, and Burgos sank to his knees but got up at the count of five.

Darchinyan (111 1/2 pounds) is a native of Armenia who fights out of Sydney, Australia. Burgos, from Tijuana, Mexico, is 39-15-3. He weighed 111 1/4.

Festival Viva Aztlan

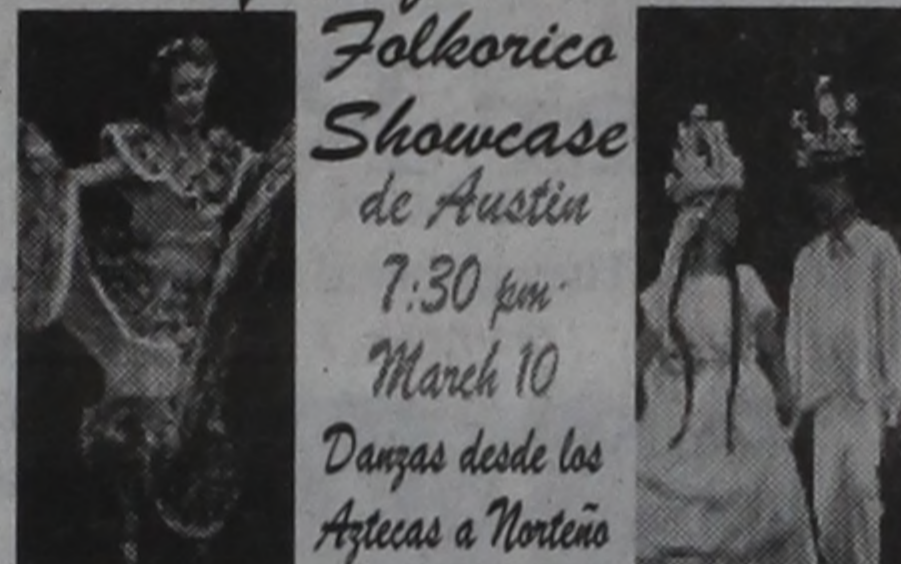
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Viva Aztlan Dance Festival is funded in part by grants from Civic Lubbock Inc, the Sybil B. Harrington Endowment for the Arts of the Lubbock Area Foundation, and the Texas Commission for the Arts. Additional support given by Xcel Energy, Magic 93.7, Latino Lubbock, Coca Cola, LISD and El Editor Newspapers.

Para Más información Llame al 806-252-2828